

Futures: Overview of the Futures/CON Issues Sent to Oversight Committee

The BISHCA statutory framework for the Certificate of Need (CON) process does not envision the State as an applicant. Simultaneously applying the CON and Futures legislated processes would result in overlapping procedures and potentially conflicting results. The primary areas of concern are duplicative and possibly contradictory planning processes and decision-making authority. In addition, the CON process elongates the timeframe to develop the new inpatient services and adds cost to the Futures Project. The Agency of Human Services and the Department of Buildings and General Services have asked the legislature **either** for an exemption from the CON process or for legislative support for

- longer development timeframes,
- cost of the CON process (planning resources, professional services, and filing fees); and
- Legislative deference to BISHCA determinations relating to program characteristics, location, and costs.

A summary of the issue has been forwarded to the Mental Health Oversight Committee and is posted on the Mental Health Update web page.

Futures: Community Informational Meeting Held in Williamstown

More than 60 interested community members turned out for an informational forum at Williamstown Middle-High School on Tuesday night to learn more about a Community Recovery Residence facility being considered for what is now the Autumn Harvest Inn. A consortium consisting of Clara Martin Center in Orange County, Howard Center in Chittenden County, and Washington County Mental Health is proposing the new service. The property developer and representatives of the consortium outlined the proposal and fielded a broad range of questions from those present. The proposal has also been presented to the Williamstown Select Board.

Futures: Actuarial Consultants Confer With Focus Groups

Representatives of TMG, the consultant working with the Futures actuarial contractor Milliman Inc. to assess Vermont's psychiatric inpatient bed needs, met with stakeholders on Monday and Tuesday. TMG's role is to assess the relative impact of Vermont's community service system on the projected need for psychiatric beds. On Monday, TMG representatives met with 1) Jeff Rothenberg, Sheryl Bellman, Butch Alexander and Michael Hartman, representing the designated agencies, 2) JoEllen Swain, John Malloy, Larry Thompson and Anne Jerman, representing the Vermont State Hospital clinical staff, and 3) Anne Donahue, Larry Lewack, Jack McCullough and Judy Rosenstreich from the Futures Group. On Tuesday, they had meetings with Linda Corey of Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, with the Health Department Acute Care Team and with other Health Department staff, including Deputy Commissioner Paul Blake. A conference-call meeting is being set up with TMG and the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems.

Futures: Facilities Work Group Meeting With Architects Postponed

Due to scheduling problems and a family death, the April 3 meeting of the Facilities Work Group has been postponed and will be rescheduled.

Futures: VSH Employees Work Group Formed

A VSH Employees Futures Work Group has been organized to address the future employment issues of Vermont State Hospital staff within the context of the Futures Project. VSEA members include Anne Noonan, Conor Casey, John O'Brien, Goldie Watson and Keith Goslant. State members include Terry Rowe, Dena Weidman, John J. Berard, Laura DeForge and Gail Rushford. Human Services Deputy Secretary Steve Gold will attend the first meeting to charge the group, and Rushford will facilitate subsequent meetings. The first order of business for the new group will be to identify the full range of options for the current staff and management at Vermont State Hospital, to identify the pros and cons of each, to prioritize them, and then to spell out what would be necessary for each preferred option to become a reality. The first meeting will be Friday, April 7, at 1 p.m. in the Human Services Secretary's Conference Room in the Waterbury State Office Complex.

Futures: Staff Changes

John Howland Jr. is leaving the Futures staff and state government to pursue interests in the private sector. Judy Rosenstreich is joining the Futures staff as senior policy advisor and will resign from her seat on the Futures Advisory Group. These changes will take place over the next two weeks.

Rosenstreich is well known in government and mental health circles. She is a former state legislator, a former White House Fellow, and served as executive director of both the Vermont State Employees Association and the Association of Vermont Independent Colleges. She also was executive director of the Vermont Council of Community Mental Health Services, served on the Fletcher Allen Health Care Mental Health Task Force, and is the mother of a mental health services consumer. Rosenstreich brings to the Futures project a solid background in policy and planning from her current professional experience as a senior policy analyst at the Dept. for Children and Families, where she has worked the past eleven years. Her community involvement includes being a long-time active member of the Neighborhood Planning Assembly in Burlington's Ward 1, being a founding member of the Vermont Community Foundation, and currently serving as board president of Burlington's Foundation for Civic Engagement Corporation. Rosenstreich has served on the Futures Inpatient Work Group since October, 2005 and was recently named to the Futures Advisory Group.

Council, Standing Committee Meeting Notes Posted

The Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services and the Local Mental Health Program Standing Committees held a statewide meeting last Friday in Berlin. Notes from the meeting are posted on the Mental Health Update web page.

Bi-weekly Report Filed With Board of Health

Vermont State Hospital has filed its bi-weekly report on Department of Justice matters with the Board of Health, pursuant to the conditions on the hospital's license. There were no new developments to report. The letter is posted on the Mental Health Update web page.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Vermont State Hospital Futures Advisory Group**
 - *NEW*: April 17, 2-4:30 p.m., Hazen Notch Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex.
 - May 15, 2-4:30 p.m., Skylight Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex.
 - June 26, 2- 4:30 p.m., Skylight Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex.
- **VSH Employees Work Group**
 - April 7, 1 p.m., Human Services Secretary's Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex.
- **Futures Clinical Care Management Work Group (*Please note change of date*)**
 - *NOTE CHANGE*: ~~April 7~~ April 28, 9-11 a.m., Skylight Conference Room, Waterbury State Office Complex.
- **Futures Residential Recovery (sub-acute) Work Group (*Please note change of locations*)**
 - April 5, 9-11 a.m., Washington County Mental Health Services, ~~9 Heaton Street, Montpelier~~ 2 Moody Court, Waterbury (green building east of railroad station).
 - April 26, 9-11 a.m., Washington County Mental Health Services, ~~9 Heaton Street, Montpelier~~ 2 Moody Court, Waterbury (green building east of railroad station).
- **Futures Facilities Work Group (With Architecture+)**
 - *POSTPONED*: ~~April 3, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.~~
 - May 22, 1-4 p.m., Room 3B, Health Department, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington.
 - June 12, all day, for presentations; various locations to be announced.
- **Legislative Mental Health Oversight Committee (Futures Project)**
 - April 5, noon – 1:30 p.m., Statehouse, Montpelier.

VSH Census

The Vermont State Hospital census was 50 as of midnight Thursday night. The average census for the past 45 days was between 48 and 49.
